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Carbondale News

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Bells mark lighting of clock tower

Approximately 55 people stood outside in snowy weather across from City Hall on North Main Street last Thursday night to watch the clock tower lights come on, marking the official beginning of the fund raising efforts to restore City Hall Carbondale.

At 7 p.m., the clock tower bell rang seven times and the city's churches followed by ringing their bells in unison to help mark the occasion. The Hendrick Manufacturing whistle also sounded, along with a blast from the Carbondale Fire Department air horn.

After the lighting of the tower, the crowd attended a meeting held by the Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall in the building's City Council Chambers. Filling most of the seats available in the meeting room, the audience listened to Robert Powell, local historian and one of the founders of the committee, tell how important it was to restore the clock and building now, so future generations will be able to use and appreciate the building.

"We must restore the building so our future generations will be able to use it just as we are using it now," stated Powell. He also said that this week he would have filed an application to the state Historial Society to have the building placed on the register of historical buildings.

"I'm pretty positive about the building being placed on the list, and I think we have a good chance of having it added to the national list also," the historian added.

A report on the donations given so far was given by David Baum, who said the halfway mark had been reached in the committee's efforts to raise $3,000 to have the clock repaired. The clock repairs are just the first phase of the restoration effort.

Committee members Powell, Baum, Tom Brennan and Robert Tomaine urged the audience to become involved with the restoration by either joining the committee, donating their services, labor, or by financial support.

A fund raising project was also announced to begin this week to raise additional funds for the restoration effort. A 50-50 raffle will be held and tickets will be sold for $1 each, with one cash prize to be selected Thursday, February 18 at a regular committee meeting. This is the only official fund raising activity being held by the committee at this time.

The next meeting of the restoration committee will be January 7, 1982.